



State Council on Developmental Disabilities

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September 1, 2015

Ms. Allison Cruz
Project Officer
Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Administration for Community Living
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Cruz:

Enclosed is the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) September 1, 2015, program progress report as required under the special conditions and restrictions of the Fiscal Year 2015 Award No. 1501CABSDD award letter. This report contains one compliance item agreed to in the Documentation of Compliance for delivery on September 1, 2015.

This report is submitted at the end of federal fiscal year 2015 and contains a detail of California's progress since the November 2013 MTARS report. The most significant progress came with the Legislature passing and the Governor signing Assembly Bill 1595 in September 2014. This legislation went into effect on January 1, 2015 addressing many of the long standing differences between federal and state statute and:

- aligned the state Lanterman Act with the federal DD Act;
- centralized Council activity within SCDD;
- removed Area Boards from statute;
- centralized SCDD authority of regional offices;
- removed the Governor's hiring authority of SCDD staff; and
- codified the Executive Director's hiring authority of all staff.

After AB 1595 established the policy, we created a compliance plan to track implementation of this policy. In less than a year, California has submitted 72% of these compliance items. With your review of prior reports, California is 67% compliant. To date, California has been on time or early with all deliverables. California is in compliance with major items, including:

"The Council advocates, promotes & implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity & inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families."

- revised the current State Plan to demonstrate statewide impact;
- hired a permanent Executive Director;
- filled long-term Council vacancies;
- created a Council that more closely reflects the geographic, ethnic, and disability diversity of California;
- stopped providing direct services in the form of individual advocacy;
- demonstrated the Council's role in creating and monitoring its own budget;
- solidified policies and controls around contracting and accounting practices;
- demonstrated a clear division between the use of federal and state funds;
- entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with our Designated State Agency (DSA);
- reviewed the DSA;
- established and continue to maintain a collaborative relationship with the Governor's Office for the appointments process; and
- provided direct evidence of supports for engaging self-advocate members of the Council in meetings and activities.

The remaining items largely group into longer term tasks, including:

- evidence of Council Membership changes over time
- evidence of the Council following its contracting policies over time
- development and approval of its next State Plan
- evidence that the Council is functioning free of DSA interference
- the first year's PPR of the new State Plan

California is proud of the quick, deliberate progress it has made and will continue with the same dedication on the remaining, longer term items. We are proud that of the tens of thousands of individual expenditures submitted for reimbursement, not a single item has been rejected.

As for this report, it is the sixth program progress report in this phase of the corrective action plan (CAP). It contains documents related to:

- Task J1b – State Plan Development

The submissions for these tasks meet the agreed upon evidence and timeline in the Documentation of Compliance (August 31, 2015 update enclosed).

The Council's MTARS Committee continues to be involved in items that require continuous monitoring or additional information. Here are updates on that item.

Task C2 (Demographic Analysis) is under continuous monitoring. Since our last report, Governor Jerry Brown made 2 appointments to SCDD. The SCDD Membership Committee

recruited, reviewed, and recommended both candidates. I attached an updated Council Member demographic map that includes these changes. The current Council reflects geographic representation throughout the state, every region represented by at least one Council Member, increasing Latino and African-American representation, and increasing gender balance. The Council currently has only three vacancies. The Membership Committee continues to solicit candidates from a number of sources, looking for qualified family and self-advocates who reflect the geographic, ethnic, and disability diversity of California.

SCDD is active in developing its next State Plan. We received over 2,900 responses to the survey asking for priorities to shape our next set of goals. We feel we could do better reaching individuals who do not speak English. While we have the survey in English, we are also translating it into 12 additional languages and will continue to do targeted community in-reach to obtain more feedback from communities who are often left out of the conversation because of language differences.

SCDD is active in advocating for the rights of individuals still living at one of California's remaining institutions. We are driving the conversation as the Governor mandates that the Sonoma Developmental Center be closed. The Director of Developmental Services fielded questions at the Council's July meeting and will return for the September meeting to propose the department's draft closure plan. We are watching the system closely to ensure people's rights and welfare as they transition into the community.

The Council is pleased that almost all of the Council's Executive Team was able to attend the national conference. These self-advocates and family advocates found the time enriching personally and professionally.

While these items are outside what is required in this reporting period, they demonstrate SCDD's continued progress in meeting the needs of Californians' with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, the ideals of the federal DD Act, and the expectations of you, our funder.

SCDD submits this report of significant progress and accomplishments for your review and consideration.

Sincerely,



Aaron Carruthers
Executive Director
State Council on Developmental Disabilities